

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Two tanks of a new type [] were observed in Halle on 2 March. The tanks appeared to be brand-new [] The chassis looked like that of the T-34, and the turret similar to that of the JS-3. The vision slit was protected with thick glass. The gun, which did not extend beyond the chassis, had a caliber of no more than 50 millimeters and was equipped with a muzzle brake. The tank was said to be capable of developing high speeds which, however, could not be confirmed by observation. Only a few of these tanks seemed to be in the area.¹

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2. Soviet infantry troops practicing in the Halle area were equipped with carbines of two new types [] One type had an overall length of one meter, while the other was 60 centimeters long. The weapons had a high rate of fire and could be used for automatic as well as single-shot firing. They could be fitted with a dagger which had a six to eight-inch blade and was normally carried in the soldier's belt; it was quite different from the regular bayonet. The carbines had slings, but were carried on as well as over the shoulder.

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1. [] Comment: In spite of various differences in descriptions, the tanks appear to have many of the features reported of the T-54. If the tanks were T-54's, however, the emphasis on the fact that the gun did not extend beyond the chassis is puzzling, in view of earlier reports and pictures of the T-54 which show a much longer gun.

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